

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION AND A NEW NATO

Excerpts from an address by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L. B. Pearson, at the Commencement Exercises, Clark University, Worcester, Massachusetts, June 3, 1956.

... I wish that I had time to discuss with you some . . . problems; particularly in the international field, where I am supposed to be more or less at home, having been working in it now for about thirty years. I will mention, however, only two.

The first of these problems is the current—and I hope searching—re-appraisal of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization—in its non-military aspects, and of ways and means of developing greater unity in the North Atlantic community. This work is being undertaken by a committee of three NATO Foreign Ministers who, incidentally have begun their work with one strike against them by being dubbed "The Three Wise Men".

NATO stands today at the very heart of the security of the free world, but a lot of people are so ignorant about it that they think it is a kind of breakfast food. Its defences protect the moral and spiritual basis of a vital segment of that world—as well as its physical security. Those defences are still needed. The danger of military aggression remains. So does the importance of collective strength to deter and, if necessary, repel it.

New Challenge

NATO also faces, however, at this time, a new challenge in the all-out political and economic offensive from Moscow. Our methods, especially in the fields of closer political and economic consultation must be adapted to meet this new challenge.

When NATO's task was almost exclusively military, the ways and means of providing defence against aggression could be thought of in terms of men and missiles. But the strength which NATO now needs, to cope with competitive co-existence has to be cultivated also in terms of public attitudes and of consultation and of voluntary and close co-operation between all member governments.

To this end, the first task of NATO is to look to its internal strength and unity, and to resist those forces which would weaken it. This means that our cohesion must find a more durable basis than the fear which originally brought us together in 1949. We must seek out new ways of providing not only for the continued maintenance of a defensive shield against aggression, but also for strengthening the existing ties which bind

members of the Atlantic Community more closely together. These ties, moreover, are not artificial creations; they existed long before NATO.

Since the war, the nations of Western Europe, with their vast reserves of knowledge, skills, and initiatives have moved toward a closer unity, the outward and institutional expression of which takes many forms.

Viewed against the background of narrow concepts of sovereignty and ancient enmities, the progress which has been made in the last ten years towards European unity is encouraging, though it is not as fast as some impatient souls would desire. Furthermore, expressed in practical forms, it gives Europeans more—not less—authority in playing their proper role on the world stage. And that is all to the good.

Bridging the Gap

The island state of Britain, with its world as well as European responsibilities, can play an important part in this move to European integration by helping to bridge the gap between the interlocking and developing communities of Europe and the Atlantic. At the same time, the North American countries—the United States and Canada—must more than ever before realize that their destinies extend across the Atlantic.

While the other countries concerned have their part to play, it is, I think, true to say that European integration and the cohesion of the Atlantic Community—neither of which excludes the other—will proceed as far and as fast as the United States and the United Kingdom make possible by recognizing the importance of their own roles in bringing it about; and in a way which will strengthen the Atlantic area as a whole.

This, then, is the first task of the new NATO—to strengthen the internal unity of the alliance, to prevent centrifugal forces from sundering it; to build upon the existing foundations of European and Atlantic unity, and to aid and assist the various initiatives to this end within the framework of the Atlantic community, and against the background of the broader international arrangements in which the Atlantic countries are participating as good citizens of the world.

Its second task will be to take advantage of any and every opportunity new soviet tactics